

the brutal rule of the communists in Eastern Europe only further desecrated the final resting places of millions of Jews. HFPJC is trying to right the wrongs of the preceding decades by working with communities throughout Europe to preserve the graves of their ancestors.

In my work with HFPJC on preservation of cemeteries in Slovakia, I have learned about the Marcelova Jewish Cemetery Project and the role the RWA Slovakia company played in enabling the cemetery's preservation. I would like to share this important story of generosity and interfaith understanding with the House.

The Marcelova Jewish cemetery site, after the Holocaust, became a deserted wasteland and passed from community to municipal to private ownership. RWA corporation owned the Marcelova Jewish cemetery lot for at least the past decade. As a burial ground, the Marcelova cemetery is sacred to people of the Jewish faith. HFPJC, acting on behalf of some highly concerned Marcelova descendants, attempted to secure the return and appropriate preservation of the cemetery before it is accidentally desecrated through construction or development.

After individual meetings between both the Marcelova mayor and several managing officers of RWA, in which all displayed exceptional courtesy, consideration, and understanding of the humanitarian significance of the issue, RWA agreed to allow the fencing and preservation of the cemetery site, adjoining their office complex. I have seen photographs of the restoration of the cemetery and would like to offer my highest commendation to RWA Slovakia for their work with HFPJC to preserve the Marcelova Jewish cemetery.

Madam Speaker, this is a generous and humane gesture on the part of RWA Slovakia, and is worthy of public recognition. Therefore, with this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the House of Representatives of the United States, I officially commend the RWA Corporation of Slovakia for its preservation of the Marcelova Jewish cemetery.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 500 to 508, due to a previous commitment to a distinguished constituent of mine.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: "yes" on rollcall vote 500, 501, 504, 505, 507, 508 and "nay" on rollcall vote 502, 503, 506.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL VALLEY CHEESE

#### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese in Fresno, Ohio is celebrating 80 years of business since 1928; and

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese has developed a fund raising program for local 4-H, FFA, church and nonprofit community groups; and

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese has won a number of coveted awards, including a silver medal at the World Cheese Competition for their smoked Swiss and a number of awards at the Ohio State Fair: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Pearl Valley Cheese for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 80 years.

#### HONORING DOCTOR RALPH MESSO

#### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent who has faithfully served the people of Staten Island for many years, Dr. Ralph Messo.

Born on Staten Island in 1961, Dr. Messo was inspired by the compassion and caring nature of the physicians he encountered as a young boy. After graduating from Wagner College, Dr. Messo pursued and was awarded a degree in Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England in 1989. Dr. Messo was drawn to osteopathic medicine and its holistic approach to treatment—care that extended beyond the patient to his or her entire family.

After medical school, Dr. Messo returned to New York to care for the residents of Staten Island. Over the years, he has earned the respect and gratitude of my constituents across the Island through his generous spirit, his caring nature and unyielding commitment to health care in the borough. Dr. Messo's gentle demeanor and reassuring tone provide comfort to all his patients—the new mothers and fathers struggling to navigate the sometimes choppy waters of parenthood . . . and seniors who may need extra reassurance and a sympathetic ear.

He is currently the president of the Richmond County Medical Society, serves as councilor to the American College of Physicians, is an attending faculty member at both of Staten Island's medical centers, and sits on the Medical Advisory Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He served as the assistant director of the Internal Medicine/Pediatric residency program at Staten Island University Hospital from 1993–2007 and was recently appointed Adjunct Clinical professor at Tourocom, a new medical school in Harlem, New York. In addition, Dr. Messo has been given The Consumer's Research Council of America's "Top Physician" award, the Peter Barbero Humanitarian Award, and was named "America's Top Pediatrician" in 2007 and 2008.

Dr. Messo continues to give back to his profession, lending his years of experience to young medical students and residents—the physicians of tomorrow who work alongside him, share in his knowledge and learn that caring for a patient is as much about listening as it is about treating.

For his decades of service to the Staten Island community, I ask that my colleagues join

with me in honoring Dr. Ralph Messo and thanking him for his dedication to health care.

#### CONGRATULATING JAKE DEITCHLER FOR MAKING THE 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC WRESTLING TEAM

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jake Deitchler of Anoka County, Minnesota for qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Wrestling team. Jake is a three-time State champion from Anoka High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Jake's path to joining the Olympic team was certainly not an easy one. Competing in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials in the Greco-Roman style, Jake defeated a two-time World Bronze medalist in the semifinals and was then victorious in a hard fought final to earn a spot on the team. Just 18 years old, only two other high school wrestlers have ever qualified for the U.S. Olympics, and even more remarkably, not one wrestler his age has qualified since 1976.

Jake's success in the Olympic Trials carries on Minnesota's proud tradition of Greco-Roman wrestling. Since 1968, at least one man has made the U.S. Olympic Wrestling team from the North Star state. Jake will be one of 16 wrestlers representing the United States in the Beijing Games taking place in China in August.

Congratulations, Jake, and America looks forward to you bringing home the gold. We are all proud of your tremendous accomplishment and our Nation wishes you and your teammates the best of luck in Beijing.

#### H.R. 6307, SUPPORTING THE "FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT"

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 6307, the Fostering Connections to Success Act, sponsored by Representatives JIM McDERMOTT and JERRY WELLER. This bill is a strong first step in reforming the foster care system, and it includes provisions supporting kinship caregivers that I have championed for years. Specifically, the bill includes the 3 core elements of my bill, H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act, which I introduced with Representative TIM JOHNSON: (1) it allows states to use Federal funds to support family caregivers raising relatives in the foster care system; (2) it provides funding to establish kinship navigator programs; and (3) it requires notification of relatives when a child enters the foster care system.

These provisions are critical to supporting our children and youth. Nationwide, almost 19 percent of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30 percent to 40 percent of children